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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/509,524

09/28/2004

Tuomo Kivisto

6009-4714

7838

7590

03/13/2009

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EXAMINER

BELL, BRUCE F

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1795

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

03/13/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/509,524	Applicant(s) KIVISTO ET AL.	
	Examiner Bruce F. Bell	Art Unit 1795	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,5,6,8,10 and 11 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,5,8,10 and 11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 6 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 September 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-3, 5, 8, 10, 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Harvey et al (RE30,005).

Harvey et al disclose a suspension means for an insoluble anode that consists of two integrally cast vertical lugs 26 enveloping sections of a rectangular suspension bar of copper. The soluble anodes employed in the electro-refining are typically cast with outwardly directed lugs or ears of non-rectangular cross section. See col. 5, lines 3-14. The anode includes attachment of baffles 18 and extensions 20 thereto of an insulating or non-conductive material that are relatively stable in electrolyte environments and are materials such as those of PVC, PE, PP and fiberglass reinforced epoxy board. See col. 5, lines 38-48. The spacing of the anodes and cathodes is maintained by the bottom rack 54 which is secured together by cross members 58. See col. 7, lines 35-48. The anode bottom extension 20 is an insulator and is connected to the bottom of the anode. The anode 30 is maintained in position by the bottom rack 54.

The prior art of Harvey et al anticipates the applicants instant invention as shown by way of the disclosure above. The Harvey et al device shows an anode being supported by a transfer portion that is integrally cast around the anode suspension rod

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and has outwardly directed lugs or ears and each side is made of a single piece. The insulation portion of the device is shown to be incorporated on the sides and bottoms of the anode as extensions 20 and baffles 18 both of which are non-conductive materials. Applicant will probably argue that their instant device has an insulation portion through which the anode suspension rod is fastened, however, that is not the way the claims as set forth instantly read. Since claims are given their broadest interpretation, it appears that since the device is supported by an anode suspension rod and the anode is considered to be a part of the device and has an insulation portion on the sides and bottom, it appears that the prior art of Harvey et al anticipates the applicants instant claims as set forth. Further, since Harvey et al sets forth plastic materials of PVC as well as others and that these materials are known to be used in electrolytic environments as is the case in Harvey et al that this aspect of the instant invention has also been met. The recitation with respect to the grip hooks being outwardly directed or having a non-rectangular cross section meets the limitations in the instant claims with respect to enabling the electrode to be transferred. The distribution element for insulating the adjacent electrodes (anodes and cathodes) appears to have been met by virtue of the baffles and extensions 18 and 20 that are used for spacing these electrodes. Therefore, the prior art of Harvey et al anticipates the applicants instant invention for the reasons set forth above.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claim 6 is allowable over the prior art of record.

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4. Claim 6 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art of record fails to teach and/or suggest an insulation portion surrounding a portion of the anode suspension rod that the device passes through.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bruce F. Bell whose telephone number is 571-272-1296. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 6:30 AM - 3:00 PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Ryan can be reached on 571 272-1292. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

BFB
March 11, 2009

/Bruce F. Bell/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1795